



Connecticut General Assembly  
SENATE DEMOCRATS

Legislative Office Building, Room 3300  
Hartford, Connecticut 06106-1591

Dear Senator Cohen, Representative Borer, and esteemed members of the Environment Committee,

On behalf of the Senate Democratic Caucus, we are writing in SUPPORT of SB 837, An Act Concerning the Use of Perfluoroalkyl or Polyfluoroalkyl Substances in Class B Firefighting Foam.

As you are aware, on June 8th, 2019 a malfunction in a private aircraft hangar at Bradley International Airport caused approximately 40,000 gallons of aqueous film-forming foam containing per and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) to be released. These chemicals then traveled through municipal sewers, the MDC wastewater treatment plant, and then into the Farmington River. This event drew our state's collective attention to the urgent environmental and public health issues created by PFAS chemicals.

PFAS are a group of manmade chemicals that are used in a variety of household products, industrial applications, and firefighting foam. They are nicknamed a "forever" chemical as they do not break down and bioaccumulate over time. PFAS chemicals are especially difficult to contain as they can move through soil, seep into groundwater, contaminate private and public drinking sources, and be carried through the air. According to the CDC's Agency for Toxic Substance and Disease Registry, these chemicals may lead to a variety of health issues in humans, including low infant birth weights, increased cholesterol levels, increased risk of cancer, increased risk of high blood pressure or pre-eclampsia in pregnant women and more. The CDC also reports more than 95 percent of the U.S. population has been exposed to PFAS and has PFAS in their bodies, highlighting the need for statewide action. PFAS chemicals also create issues in the wider ecosystems that they contaminate including stunting the development and increasing risks of cancers in fish, birds, amphibians, and other mammals.

We applaud Governor Lamont for acting quickly after the Farmington River Incident to put together an Interagency PFAS Task Force to look at how our state can address this issue. We strongly support the Environment Committee in taking up some of the task force's recommendations including reducing future releases of aqueous film-forming foam by prohibiting the use of firefighting foam containing PFAS for training purposes and creating a take-back program for these harmful products. Currently, there are at least 12 states, including our neighbors in New York and New Hampshire, who have taken action to mitigate the risks presented by aqueous film-forming foam.

We thank you for your attention to this important topic and look forward to working with you to join states across the nation in protecting the health of our citizens and our environment.

Sincerely,

*Martin Looney*

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Martin M. Looney  
Senate President Pro Tempore  
State Senator 11<sup>th</sup> District

*Saud Anwar*

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Saud Anwar  
State Senator 3<sup>rd</sup> District

*Christine Cohen*

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State Senator 12<sup>th</sup> District

*Mary Daugherty Abrams*

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*Norm Needleman*

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*Julie Kushner*

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State Senator 24<sup>th</sup> District

*Bob Duff*

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Bob Duff  
Senate Majority Leader  
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*Alex Kasser*

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*Derek Slap*

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State Senator 5<sup>th</sup> District

*Marilyn Moore*

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State Senator 22<sup>nd</sup> District

*Catherine A. Osten*

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Cathy Osten  
State Senator 19<sup>th</sup> District

